




Protecting public health and the environment

South Phoenix Multi-Media Toxics Reduction Pilot Project



South Phoenix - Background



- ✓ Concentration of industrial facilities, surrounded by vehicle traffic from Interstates 10 and 17 
- ✓ Lowest point in the Valley, highest PM10 readings
- ✓ Site of several major industrial fires
- ✓ Residents are primarily low income and minorities
- ✓ Long-standing concerns about their exposure to harmful air pollutants

Previous Efforts



- ✓ High Risk/High Priority Report (1995)
- ✓ Environmental Justice Report (1996)
- ✓ Although several recommendations from these reports were implemented, ADEQ realized more needed to be done to effectively address the concerns of South Phoenix residents.

South Phoenix Initiative - 2001



- ✓ An effort to restore public confidence and trust with the South Phoenix community
 - ✓ Match agency resources to community environmental concerns
 - ✓ Build coalitions with the community, elected officials, governmental agencies, and the private sector
 - ✓ Improve communications

Accomplishments




- ✓ East Washington Fluff Site
 - ✓ \$3 million project removed 6,850 tons of contaminated fluff and debris, then installed a protective cap over entire site
- ✓ Targeted Inspection Sweep
 - ✓ Joint EPA/ADEQ inspection of all hazardous waste treatment and storage facilities and large quantity generators in South Phoenix
- ✓ UST Inspections
 - ✓ Operational inspections at all 165 registered UST facilities



Other Recent Developments



- ✓ Community Emergency Notification System 
- ✓ Improved inter-agency cooperation
 - ✓ Established a working group with City, County, and DHS to foster collaboration on environmental efforts in South Phoenix

Next Steps



- ✓ ADEQ applied for and was awarded a grant from EPA to reduce toxic pollutants in South Phoenix.
 - ✓ Convene a Community Action Council (CAC) to oversee the process
 - ✓ Review historical and current data to identify problematic toxics
 - ✓ Select the pilot area
 - ✓ Develop science-based strategies to reduce public exposure
 - ✓ Implement the strategies

South Phoenix Multi-media Toxics Reduction Project



- ✓ Organization
 - ✓ 20-30 members who reflect the diversity of the community
 - ✓ Members will serve as liaisons to their constituent groups
- ✓ Decision-making process
 - ✓ Training will be provided to establish a facilitated consensus-based process to reflect the diversity of community's views
 - ✓ The process will be open and inclusive
 - ✓ The council will have access to the advice and technical expertise of EPA, ADEQ, DHS, Maricopa County, and the City of Phoenix



Challenges



- ✓ Encourage community trust and participation
- ✓ Coordinate implementation of recommendations over multiple jurisdictions
- ✓ Ensure CAC sustainability beyond this pilot project
- ✓ Leverage activities and successes to obtain additional funding for future toxics reductions projects in the community



Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Interested in participating?

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